

Mental Health & Substance Use and Addiction Medicine & Substance Use

Nanaimo

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Territorial Acknowledgement

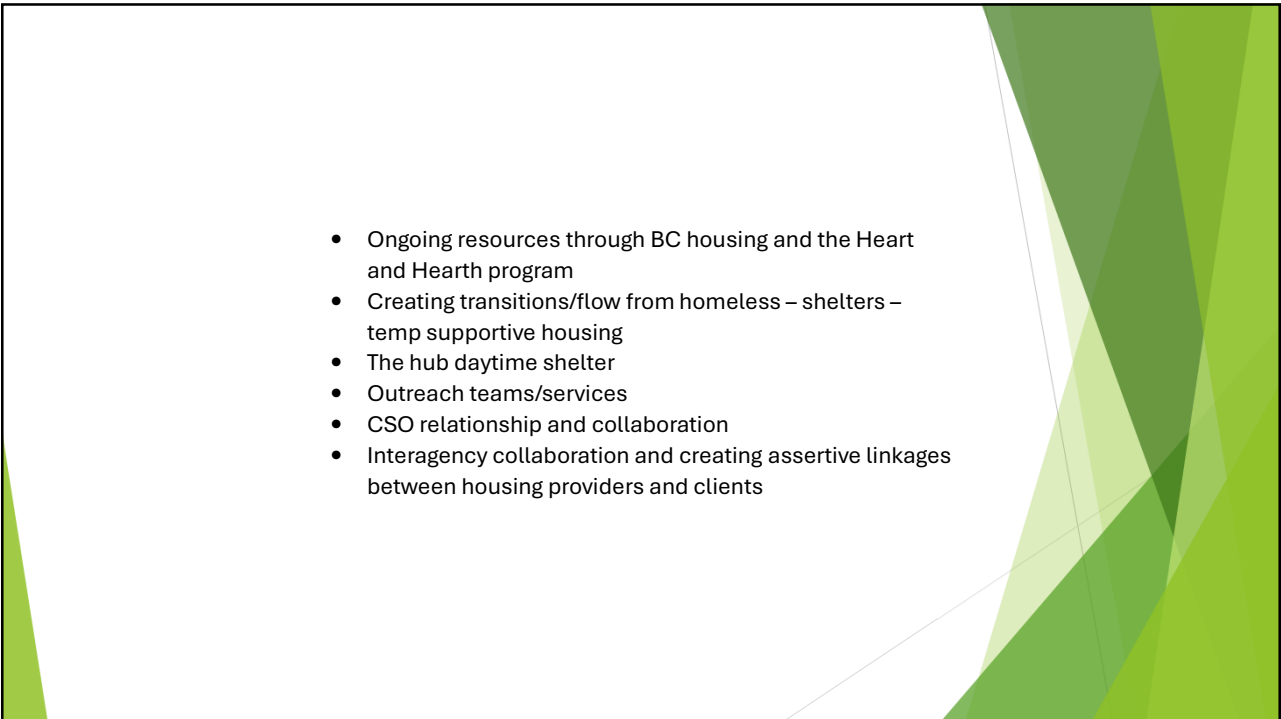
- We acknowledge that we are gathering on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation where we are privileged to serve our community.

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What is working well in addressing homelessness and the basic needs of unsheltered individuals in Nanaimo?

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- Ongoing resources through BC housing and the Heart and Hearth program
 - Creating transitions/flow from homeless – shelters – temp supportive housing
 - The hub daytime shelter
 - Outreach teams/services
 - CSO relationship and collaboration
 - Interagency collaboration and creating assertive linkages between housing providers and clients

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What more is needed to address homelessness and the critical needs facing unsheltered individuals?

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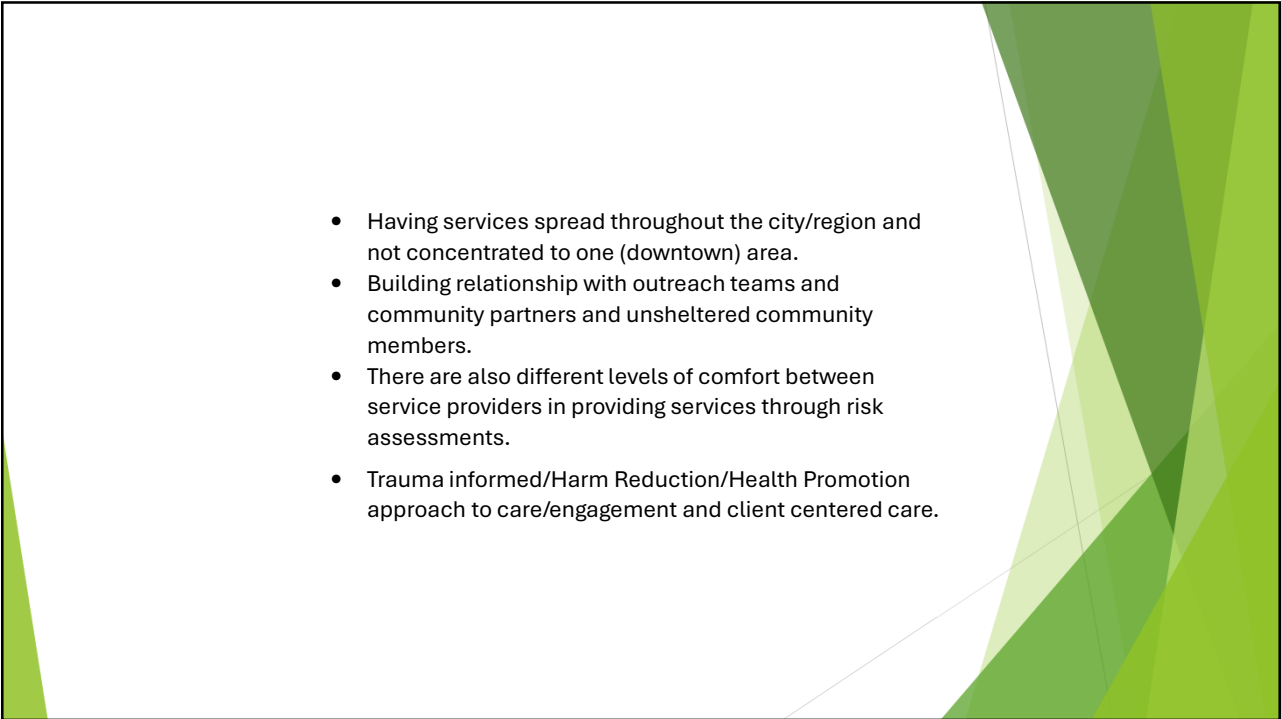
- ▶ Able to be proactive in providing supports instead of being reactive. When left to reactive response, clients health needs can become more complex as they are going longer without receiving support in a structured supportive environment.
- ▶ Some individuals do not want to attend shelter spaces, so above placement into shelters before going to Hearth housing options (Newcastle).
- ▶ Daytime shelters with onsite support for ADL's hygiene/laundry etc.
- ▶ Anything we can do collectively to help improve individuals' attachment to prosocial society, building trust and relationship with our outreach teams (and community partner organizations).
- ▶ Providing access to integrated MHSU services across the continuum of supports
- ▶ Providing access to housing resources
- ▶ Focusing some energy on early intervention to prevent a move to chronic homelessness.
- ▶ Develop ways for unsheltered community members to integrate into the volunteer or employed work force (vocational training, supporting community events etc.)

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What more is needed to address homelessness and the critical needs facing unsheltered individuals?

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- Having services spread throughout the city/region and not concentrated to one (downtown) area.
 - Building relationship with outreach teams and community partners and unsheltered community members.
 - There are also different levels of comfort between service providers in providing services through risk assessments.
 - Trauma informed/Harm Reduction/Health Promotion approach to care/engagement and client centered care.

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